(c) There is no proposal to send all party delegation to Sri Lanka in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India has reiterated at the highest level its position in favour of a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all communities, including the Tamil community, within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. We have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to take steps in this direction.

RTI of NRIs

795. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many countries NRIs are asking information to Indian embassies under RTI act, if so, the details of applications, country-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian embassies are not in a position to reply the application;

(c) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to amend RTI act so that any NRI can seek information through the Indian missions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. NRIs are seeking information from Indian Missions/Posts abroad under the RTI Act, 2005. As regards details of the RTI applications received and replied country-wise, relevant information is being compiled and will be provided at an early date.

(b) Indian Missions/Posts abroad are responding to the RTI applications as stipulated under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training), New Delhi is the appropriate authority to provide information on any proposed amendment of the RTI Act.

Review of bilateral treaties

796. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review bilateral treaties with any Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of any such proposals;

(c) the circumstances under which Government reviews bilateral treaties with foreign countries; and

(d) the full details of conditions and circumstances under which Government reviews foreign treaties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Details of existing bilateral treaties under review/consideration for review:—

I. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement/Convention with China, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan;

II. Visa Agreement and Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974 with Pakistan;

III. Indo-Nepalese Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950;

IV. Bilateral Air Services Agreement with Singapore;

V. Periodic review of the comprehensive economic cooperation agreement with Singapore.

(c) and (d) A review of bilateral treaties is undertaken, where possible, to address new situations and realities so that the basic purposes of a treaty are safeguarded and our national interest is protected and promoted.

Discussion on visit of Nepalese PM

797. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal has recently visited India and held discussions with various leaders;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Nepal have agreed to extend help to fight terrorism and Naxal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August, 2009. The Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President of India and the Vice-President of India. He had meetings with Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance and Minister of Home Affairs. Discussion were held on issues of mutual interest and concern and both sides expressed their satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and resolved to work together to further strengthen and enhance cooperation consistent with the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries. They also reaffirmed their determination to consolidate and expand the areas of cooperation with a view to taking the relationship to a new height on the basis of mutual respect, understanding and mutual benefit. During the visit, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal signed an MoU regarding